

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

General Administration Department – Constitution of High-Power Committee to probe into the causes behind the gas leak and suggest measures to improve the protocol for industrial safety of similar type of plants-Orders- Issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SC.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 803

Dated: 08-05-2020.

ORDER :-

The unfortunate incident of the leakage of 'Vapour gas' (styrene) from LG Polymer plant, situated at Gopalapatnam area of R.R. Venkatapuram Village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam city, occurred during early hours of the morning of 7th May 2020. The gas started to leak, which despite early controls, caused hospitalization (9 deaths) of several adversely-affected people and subsequent panic among locals.

2. Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken swift action to avert further loss of lives and any other negative externality, by arranging a massive evacuation exercise for residents of the nearby areas. The District administration of Vizag mobilized several vehicles including ambulances, fire brigades etc. to rescue, evacuate and shift local people to the farther areas. The affected victims were immediately moved to hospitals for critical care and recovery procedures.

3. Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced Rs. 1 Crore as compensation to the families of each of the deceased. In addition to this, the government will also compensate victims on ventilator support with Rs 10 lakhs, and victims hospitalized but not on life-support with Rs 1 lakh each. This will be provided in addition to the entire expenses of their hospitalization, critical care and recovery, which will be borne by the government. Victims who received primary care treatment due to surface injuries arising out of this gas leak, will be given Rs. 25,000 each. Many animals had also died after inhaling the gas, the government will give compensation of Rs. 20,000 per animal to their owners.

4. The Government is fully committed to ensuring that such a harmful incident does not take place again. To achieve this, the Government hereby appoints a High-Power Committee to probe into the causes behind the gas leak and to take stock of the recovery steps being taken in response to the incident.

Sl. No.	Name of the Officer & Designation	Department	Chair/ Member
1	Sri Neerab Kumar Prasad, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government	EFS&T Department	Chairman
2	Sri R. Karikal Valaven, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to Government	Industries & Commerce Department	Member
3	Sri Vinay Chand, IAS	Collector and District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam	Member
4	Sri R.K. Meena, IPS	Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam	Member
5	Sri Vivek Yadav, IAS	Member Secretary, AP Pollution Control Board	Member- Convenor

5. The terms of reference of the High-power Committee on the vapour gas leak incident at LG Polymer Plant, Visakhapatnam are as follows:

- a. The Committee shall enquire on reasons for the leakage, including verifying if the Company had adhered to all safety protocols;
- b. The Committee shall study if there are long-term effects of the gas leakage on the surrounding villages, if any;
- c. The Committee shall recommend proposed action to be taken against the Unit by the Government, in case of any negligence on the vapour leak incident in Visakhapatnam;
- d. The Committee will suggest measures to be taken by industry units, including safety audits, to prevent such mishaps in future;
- e. In case there are any observations and suggestions for all similar industrial plants, those too shall be communicated in the report.

6. The Committee shall submit its final recommendations to the Government within one month.

7. To ensure quality inputs of the highest standards by experts on the matter of measures to be taken to avoid occurrence of such an incident in the future, the Chairman of the Committee shall be empowered to co-opt any individual/ organization of national/ international repute.

8, Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board will provide all necessary assistance to the Committee in preparation of the report.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

NILAM SAWHNEY
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Sri Neerab Kumar Prasad, IAS,
Special Chief Secretary to Government, EFS&T Dept.
Sri R.Karikal Valaven, IAS,
Special Chief Secretary to Government, Ind. & Comm. Dept.
Sri Vinay Chand, IAS,
Collector and District Magistrate, Visakhapatnam
Sri R.K. Meena, IPS,
Commissioner of Police, Visakhapatnam.
Sri Vivek Yadav, IAS,
Member Secretary, AP Pollution Control Board

Copy to:

PS to Chief Secretary to Government
PS to Prl. Secretary to CM
PS to Minister for Industries & Commerce.
PS to Minister for EFS&T Department.
G.A.(SC.A)Department.
SF/SC.

// FORWARDED BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER (SC)